

them. The exits in the houses were shockingly small, a crying fault in most Chinese houses—and how the large number of inmates got out in safety is almost a wonder. The escape of the prisoners was a most wonderful feat. The escape of the prisoners was a most wonderful feat. The escape of the prisoners was a most wonderful feat.

## CHINESE RENDITION CASE.

The case in which a passage boat was attacked in Chinese waters on the 23rd March, 1888, when the servant of a Mandarin was killed while in charge of his master's luggage, was resumed this morning at the Magistracy before Mr. H. E. Woodhouse. Mr. W. Wotton appeared for the Chinese Government and Mr. J. F. Webber for the defence.

Inspector Swanston stated:—When I arrested the defendant on the 30th April for robbery and murder I had the other case in my mind, in which a pawn-shop was attacked on the 8th March last in the Sun U district of China.

Makin Shing, cross-examined by Mr. Webber: I was first employed in the He Chang shop on the 1st of the month of the 10th year, at \$5 a month. On the 13th March, 1888, I first went to Canton, where I remained till March 22nd. On the 16th I collected the 200 taels from the Fook Loong shop; they paid in silver dollars and broken silver; there was no yucco; the greater part was in coined silver. I don't know the difference between a Mexican dollar and a Japanese yen. I left Canton on the 17th of the month by the passage boat, the captain's name I do not know. I paid twenty-five cents, and left Canton at 3 p.m. There were about 30 passengers, but no women.

Lan Choy told me who he was while I was getting a light from him. When the pirates attacked him they said "whose luggage is this?" and then one of them fired a small gun at him and killed him. They landed me at Chuk Chow, about 15 miles from home, to which I walked, and remained there till next morning, when I went to the He Chang shop and told them that I had been robbed by people on board the junk. My uncle made a complaint to the district Magistrate at Sun U. I have no uncle in Macao nor any relatives there. Nobody gave me any money for giving evidence here, and nobody told me what to say as a Chinaman.

The Court—I was taken out of the passage boat and put into a junk, of which there were two alongside. The pirate boat was long in the hull, without masts, and without deck, propelled by oars and with about 18 or 19 men rowing. There were other two men there, one of whom was sleeping. The master of the servant who was killed was on the passage boat when I left; he is a mandarin. I came to Hongkong on the 9th April of this year; I was never here before. I live now at the Yan Wo Chan boarding house with a man from Macao, who brought me here. I left my business shop because there was no opium business going on. If I saw my property I should know it again; my jacket was plain dark blue silk with brass buttons, and waistcoat of blue silk lined with cotton; I had also a blanket which I could recognize.

The witness was here shown the contents of some boxes, spread out on the floor of the Court, but failed to recognize anything. Mr. Wotton, addressing his Worship, said he was trying to get other two witnesses from the shop where the present witness came from; that the Mandarin who was by the passage boat was dead and, of course, could not be called, but that some time would elapse before his witnesses would be available. The case was then further remanded until Friday next at 3 p.m.

## CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not necessarily endorse the opinions expressed by Correspondents in this column.]

## VOLAPUK.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "HONGKONG TELEGRAPH." DEAR SIR—The writer of the article on Volapuk contained in your worthy paper of the 11th inst., questions the veracity of my statement as to the number of partisans of the new universal language. The article is evidently the production of a correspondent who has read nothing but the preface to my first book on Volapuk and has not seen my second pamphlet in which I give the names of the principal leaders in Europe. To satisfy your correspondent I enclose a circular issued by the French Volapuk Society and containing the names of the leaders in the chief cities of the world. You will notice in the list the names of officers, traders, journalists, professors, engineers, bankers, judges, priests—in short, of men of all professions. I should gladly send you documents, letters, cards, books, newspapers, from all parts of the world, if you would promise to return them to me after perusal. So much concerning my colleagues.

As the article in question might leave the readers of my writings on Volapuk under the impression that I have been somewhat exaggerating the facts, I feel bound to inform you that the figures given in my book emanate from a document edited by Schleier himself, the "Weltprache-Wandkaleender des Jahres 1888" or "Wall-calendar for the year 1888" in which it is stated under paragraph 11 that "the knowers, promoters and friends of Volapuk amount to one million two hundred thousand (1,200,000)."

Your correspondent calls the daily papers "fountains of news," but it is clear to me that he does not often draw from those fountains, else he might have noticed articles in favour of Volapuk in the *Graphic*, the *Atkinson*, the *Pall Mall Gazette*, the *London Daily Free Press*, *Chambers' Journal*, to speak only of English home papers that have been shown to me. Newspapers have enough to do with politics, they cannot give all their time to Volapuk. They have announced its birth, they will watch its growth, and if it proves a worthless invention they will register its burial. Meanwhile Volapuk has in the world 15 newspapers entirely devoted to the defence of its cause and the propagation of its principles, and its followers are not characterized by "narrow views and huge pretensions," like your correspondent, but by a spirit of international fraternity, the love of peace and the patient perseverance which leads to success.

I am, Dear Sir,

Yours truly,

J. A. VAN AALST.

Amoy, 17th May, 1888.

## BRITISH COLUMBIA AND CHINA.

During the first year of the operation of the Canadian Pacific Railroad between Port Moody, B. C., and Montreal, Canada, the company was content to feed its line with Tea, Silk and other products from China and Japan by sailing vessels. Last year the company dispensed with this service and inaugurated a monthly steam line. For this service, three steamers were chartered, in England and sent out to China. These were

the *Abyssinia*, *Batavia* and *Parthia*. The line was opened by the departure of the first named from Hongkong last May. She left Yokohama June 1st and reached Port Moody on the 14th of that month, making the run over in 13 days and 14 hours. No subsequent steamer on the line has essayed to cut down that record. The *Abyssinia* left Port Moody on her return trip June 21st. A steamer has come and gone monthly ever since. The line has now been in full operation for nine months, say, from July 1, 1887, to March 3, 1888, and it is of interest to note its effect on the business of the steam lines running out of San Francisco to China, namely the Pacific Mail Company (American line) and the Occidental and Oriental Company (British line).

Each of the two lines out of this port has four steamers in commission, those of the Pacific Mail being *City of Peking*, *City of New York*, *City of Rio de Janeiro*, and *City of Sydney*, and those of the Occidental and Oriental being the *Belgia*, *Gaelic*, *Oceanic* and *San Pablo*, (lately lost) and the last named under the American flag. The two lines alternate trips with each other and work in perfect harmony, and the service is tri-monthly. California has therefore eight steamers in the China trade and an average of three arrivals every month against British Columbia's three steamers and one arrival every month. This has been the condition of things for the past nine months. The British Columbia steamers have been well patronized from the start in coming over, and during most of the period have gone back well laden. This has been especially true during the past six months. The steamer which left Port Moody for Yokohama and Hongkong last week is reported to have been unable to take all the freight that was offered her.

It is natural to inquire whether this traffic represents new business, or whether it has been drawn from the older lines. China and Japan have just about the same amount of tea, silk, rice, oil and other produce to send to America every year, and the opening of a new steam line must divert something from the older lines. Of course, the addition of one steamer every month in this large carrying trade cannot make a great deal of difference with lines previously in operation, but the Canadian Pacific people are not likely to always remain content with a single steamer every month. Thus far they have received ten steamers from Hongkong and Yokohama. The next move, of course, will be for a semi-monthly service. We do not know that the California steam lines have as yet seriously felt the encroachments of the British Columbia steam line, though there has been a considerable falling off in the value of our exports to China and Hongkong in the past nine months, as compared with the corresponding period in 1886-87. The comparison is as follows:

Quarter ending—	1886-87.	1887-88.
September 30.....	\$1,204,680	\$ 697,745
December 31.....	1,195,590	1,050,767
March 31.....	758,253	593,820

Total.....\$3,158,523.....\$3,344,472

Our trade with Japan for the same period has not varied much; the total for the past nine months having been \$579,653, against \$573,630 in 1886-87. The falling off in the exports to Hongkong and China was the heaviest in the first quarter of the operation of the new British line, and was the lightest in the second quarter, as follows:

Decrease, quarter ending Sept. 30, '87.....	\$566,735
Decrease, quarter ending Dec. 31, '87.....	114,891
Decrease, quarter ending March 31, '88.....	204,433

Total.....\$826,959

The heaviest item of freight from this port to Hongkong and China has been flour. It is known that Oregon is making an effort to capture this trade and, west of it entirely from California millers. It is also known that the Canadian Pacific Company is offering strong inducements to Oregon millers. Wheat is always cheaper in Oregon than in California, and of course Oregon millers can undersell those in this State. As a result, the British Columbia steamers are taking a good deal of flour from Oregon to Hongkong. Fortunately at present there is only one steamer per month out of Port Moody, B. C., and though of late these steamers have not lacked for flour freight, the effect on shipments from California has not been felt to any appreciable extent.

The flour shipments from San Francisco to Hongkong and China for the past nine months, during which the British Columbia steam line has been in full and successful operation, compare as follows with the corresponding period in 1886-87, when no such line was in existence:

Quarter ending—	1886-87.	1887-88.
September 30.....	95,404	95,703
December 31.....	139,681	146,681
March 31.....	80,835	85,597

Total.....315,887.....327,981

The comparison shows a loss of 10,000 bbls. or about what a single steamer would take. The above totals comprise all the shipments from this port. If we deduct the shipments made by rail, it will be found that the steamers have carried in the past nine months within 2,363 bbls. as much as they did for the same time in 1886-87. For example, the ships *Oregon* and *Annie Johnson* left here in November and December, 1887, with 40,242 bbls. for Hongkong, whereas the three sailing vessels which have left here in the past nine months for Hongkong took out only 32,626 bbls. Deducting these totals from those given in the above table, we get at the flour shipments by steamer as follows:

1886-87.	1887-88.
Total flour exports, bbls.....	310,887.....307,883
Flour by rail.....	40,242.....32,626

Flour by steamers.....270,645.....265,257

The importance of flour freight in making up our export values to Hongkong and China will be seen in the annexed statement for the nine months ending March 31st:

1886-87.	1887-88.
All exports.....	\$3,158,523.....\$3,344,472
Flour exports.....	1,236,913.....1,203,909

Miscellaneous exports, \$1,931,610.....\$1,136,563

It is not our flour trade with China that is responsible for the difference of \$826,000 less on the nine months, as the flour shipments show a loss of only \$31,000. This loss has been more than offset by quicker freight shipments. In the past nine months we have shipped 4,175 flasks of quicksilver to Hongkong, valued at \$181,917, whereas no shipments of this kind were made in the same time in 1886-87. It is evident that most of this difference of \$1,000,000 in our China trade is the result of increased shipments of Eastern freight, such as ginseng, shellfish, dry goods and general manufactures. It is quite possible that some of this Eastern freight has been diverted in favor of the British Columbia steamers, but most of the loss we fancy is due to the fact that less freight of this description has gone out of the country to China. As for the tea-carrying trade, the British Columbia steamers have cut more largely into the Suez traffic than into the through traffic by way of San Francisco. Up to March 20, 1888, the tea arrivals at New York for the season, via the Suez Canal, had been 710,535 pkgs., against 1,071,889 pkgs. for the same time in 1886-87, showing a loss of 361,354 pkgs. or nearly 30 per cent. The steamers arriving at San Francisco have brought about the same quantity as in 1886-87. See *San Francisco Bulletin*.

## MANILA NEWS.

(Translated from Manila Papers.)

The new civil Governor of Manila is Señor D. José Pastor y Magan.

A slight shock of earthquake occurred at Nueva Caceres, in the Philippines, on the night of 10th inst.

A ball was given on the 10th inst. by the officers of the Chilean corvette *Abtao* to several residents of Manila.

From January to April 3,390,405 piculs of rice were imported from Saigon, against 3,892,082 during the same period in 1887.

The death of the Captain Enrique Rodriguez the Siro, of the Spanish Royal Navy, Secretary to the Manila Naval Department.

Ten individuals were recently apprehended at Cavite, in the Philippines, on suspicion of having murdered a Chinese itinerant vendor, after robbing him of all his money.

A decree has been enacted providing for church burials in the Philippines. Chapels are to be built inside the cemeteries, and corpses will be exposed therein, to undergo the requisite ecclesiastical ceremonies, previous to being confined to mother earth.

## PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

MANY BITS OF KNOWLEDGE WELL WORTH HAVING—CURIOUS AND SUGGESTIVE.

A Philadelphia oculist declares that the use of opera glasses strains the optic nerves and injures the eyesight.

Professor Swing's essay on "Christian Science" has certain merits. Here it is:—(1) It is not Christian. (2) It is not science.

The U. S. Army Department has adopted aluminium bronze for the propeller blades and rudders of some of the new war vessels.

Dr. Lloyd Francis gives cases in which inmates of St. Andrew's Hospital for the Insane at Northamptonshire have been greatly benefited by outdoor labor.

It is estimated that to collect one pound of honey from clover, 62,000 heads of clover must be deprived of nectar and 3,750,000 visits from bees must be made.

For cement to make joints for granite monuments, use clean sand, twenty parts; lime, two parts; quicklime, one part; and linseed oil sufficient to form a thin paste.

Dr. Charles Tuckett of St. Louis believes that the theory that human beings should sleep with their bodies lying north and south has its foundation in true scientific facts.

A Brazilian physician has discovered that a hypodermic injection of two grains of permanent iodine of potash to a dram of water is an antidote for the bite of a rattlesnake.

A French scientist advances the theory that obesity is a nervous disorder, and should be treated by avoidance of mental and physical fatigue, and a diet of eggs, soup, milk, rice and potatoes.

An eminent physician recommends that all the wood used in the interiors of houses, and all the plain surfaces of plaster be thoroughly oiled, and varnished, so that the power of absorption of foul air and gases be destroyed.

Some of the heavenly bodies are inclined to be fast. Meteorites sometimes attain a velocity of 180,000 feet per second. When passing through the air at this rate the friction is so great that the air is heated up to a temperature of 10,800 deg. Fahrenheit.

A Cleveland, Ohio, steel mill has put up a big "magnet" extended on a chain from a crane which, when charged with electricity, does the work of fifteen men who were formerly employed at lifting billets to railroad cars. A boy can run the new labor-saver.

The microphone, an instrument constructed to magnify slight sounds, can be made so delicate that the imperceptible noise made by drawing a hair over some part of it resembles the harsh grating of a saw, or the footsteps of a fly may be augmented into a loud tramp.

Professor Elisha Gray's new telegraph is said to produce at one end of the wire an exact fac-simile of the writing of the messages sent at the other end. An artist may draw a picture with the pencil in Chicago and it will be reproduced synchronously by the pencil in New York.

Dr. Leon has been making an extended investigation of the amount of iron in milk, and finds that cow's milk contains more of this constituent than either human or asses' milk. In asses' milk he found 0.0035 per cent. of iron, in human milk 0.0095 per cent. and in cow's milk 0.0040 per cent.

Two hundred and seventy-one asteroids had been discovered at last accounts. These little planets, thought by some to be the remains of a former existing, but now exploded, larger planet, are constantly receiving new additions to their numbers by the discoveries of later observers.

Now that every thing is being done by electricity, it is not strange that the fisherman should utilize it. A small battery is attached to the rod, and near the hook is a small electric light. The fisherman lights up his lamp, and the unusual phenomenon attracts the fish. The baited hook does the rest.

The theory of evolution, or the gradual development of man from the lower form of animal life, has received another supporter in the person of Dr. William H. Bryant, who has just discovered that valves exist in the portal veins of very young infants, which disappear in the adult. These valves were formerly supposed to exist only in beasts.

Dr. Renk of Munich has been experimenting on the utility of the electric light, from a sanitary standpoint, in the National Theatre of Munich. He found that the electric light had hardly any ill effects on the health of the audience, whereas the gaslight raised the temperature of the room, deprived the air of its oxygen and rendered it injurious by increasing the carbonic acid, especially in the higher regions.

The Westinghouse Electric Company has just completed an incandescent lamp which is expected to give better results than any lamp now in use. Formerly a lamp which burned 200 hours was considered good, but the new one is expected to burn easily from 2,500 to 3,000 hours without deterioration. Deterioration has been a stumbling block in the way of incandescent lamps ever since they were invented.

The paper doors now coming into use are claimed to possess the advantage over wood of neither shrinking, swelling, cracking nor warping. They are formed of two thick paper boards, stamped and mounted into panels, and glazed together with glue and putty, and then rolled through heavy rollers. After being covered with a waterproof coating, and then one that is fire proof, they are painted, varnished and hung in the usual way.

At the recent Press Club banquet an instantaneous photograph of the pencil present was made by the use of an unusual amount of magnesium acting compound, the most rapid dry plates and the quickest working Morrison's instantaneous wide-angle lenses. Over two hundred people were present, and the result was very satisfactory. The faces of the guests were as well taken as in an ordinary instantaneous photograph taken in the same time.

When the first electric telegraph was established the speed of transmission was from four to five words a minute with the 5-needle instruments. In 1849 the average rate for newspaper messages was seventeen words a minute. The

present pace of the electric telegraph between London and Dublin, where the Wheatstone instrument is employed, reaches 462 words; and thus what was regarded as miraculous sixty years ago has multiplied a hundredfold in half a century.

In Paris the substitution of glass flooring for boards continues to increase, this being especially the case in those business structures in which the whole of the ground is paved with large squares of roughened glass imbedded in a strong iron frame, and in the cellars beneath there is sufficient light without gas for business purposes. Though the first cost of glass is much greater, its almost unlimited durability is greatly in its favor.

Forests are known to diminish evaporation and preserve moisture, and this has been explained by the lower temperature and greater humidity which exists under their shadows. The most important factor in the production of this state of affairs is, however, the resistance which is offered to the winds by the woods. The force of the winds being greatly reduced under the trees, the air is changed more slowly and the moisture less readily carried away. The quantity of rain increases in the vicinity of a forest. During the rainy season the moss and herbage of woods store up the moisture for consumption during the dry season, and growths are permitted to flourish in regions where it never rains except in the fall and winter, as is the case on the coast of the Caspian Sea.

An important process has been patented within a few months past that bids fair to revolutionize the bond whisky trade of the country. Its purpose is to "age" whisky speedily, something that has been often tried but not accomplished without impairing the taste or quality to such an extent as to render the process of no value. The newly patented method is simple and inexpensive, consisting only in the injection of pure air, so diffused that it touches every particle of the spirits. Henry Glass, a chemist of Christian County, Ky., is the inventor. For a year past some of the best whisky-makers in the country have been experimenting with the process in a small way, and they concur in the opinion that with three months' treatment new whisky in odor and color becomes equal to the best three to five-year-old goods, and without loss in proof and quantity. The method is now being tested in a large way at the distillery of M. P. Mattingly of Owensboro, Ky. Its success in all particulars would work a radical change in the price of this staple.

## Today's Advertisements.

FOR SHANGHAI.

THE Steamship "PEKING." Captain G. Heuermann, will be despatched for the above Port on TUESDAY, the 22nd inst., at 4 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to SIEMSEN & Co. Agents. Hongkong, 19th May, 1888. [518]

FOR MANILA, VIA AMOY.

THE Spanish Steamer "DON JUAN." Captain Marquez, will be despatched as above on THURSDAY, the 24th inst., at 4 P.M.

For Freight or Passage, apply to BRANDAO & Co. Agents. Hongkong, 19th May, 1888. [516]

FOR NAGASAKI, KOBE, & YOKOHAMA. THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamship "KASHGAR."

will leave for the above places on TUESDAY, the 29th inst., at DAYLIGHT. E. L. WOODIN, Superintendent. Hongkong, 19th May, 1888. [513]

U. S. MAIL LINE.

PACIFIC MAIL STEAMSHIP COMPANY. THROUGH TO NEW YORK, VIA OVERLAND RAILWAYS, AND TOUCHING AT YOKOHAMA, AND SAN FRANCISCO.

THE U. S. Mail Steamship "CITY OF NEW YORK" will be despatched for San Francisco, via Yokohama, on SATURDAY, the 9th June, at THREE P.M., taking Passengers and Freight for Japan, the United States, and Europe.

Through Bills of Lading issued for transportation to Yokohama and other Japan Ports, to San Francisco, and Atlantic and Indian Cities of the United States, via Oymaland-Railways, to Havana, Trinidad, and Demerara, and to ports in Mexico, Central and South America, by the Company's and connecting Steamers.

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of Steamers.

First-class Fare granted as follows:—To San Francisco.....\$200.00 To San Francisco and return.....350.00 available for 6 months.....325.00 To Liverpool.....325.00 To London.....325.00

To other European Ports at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and the Imperial Chinese Customs, to be obtained on application.

Passengers who have paid full fare, re-embarking at San Francisco for China or Japan (or vice versa) within one year will be allowed a discount of 10 per cent. This allowance does not apply to through fares from China and Japan to Europe.

Freight will be received on board until 4 P.M. the day previous to sailing. Parcel Packages will be received at the Office until 5 P.M. same day; all Parcel Packages should be marked to address in full, value of same in required.

Consular invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Ports beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Offices in Sealed Envelopes, addressed to the Collector of Customs at San Francisco.

For further information as to Passage and Freight, apply to the Agency of the Company, No. 50A, Queen's Road Central. C. D. HARMAN, Agent. Hongkong, 19th May, 1888. [517]

ST. JOHN LODGE OF HONGKONG, No. 618, S.C.

A NEMERGENCY MEETING of the above-named Lodge will be held in FREEMASONS' HALL, Zealand Street, on MONDAY, the 21st inst., at 8.30 p.m. precisely. Visiting Brethren are cordially invited. Hongkong, 19th May, 1888. [517]

## Auctions.

## THREE DAYS AUCTION. NOTICE.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAS RECEIVED

INSTRUCTIONS FROM

MESSRS. KUHN & CO.,

ON ACCOUNT OF CLOSING BUSINESS,

TO SELL

at their Premises,

24, BANK BUILDINGS,

opposite

THE HONGKONG HOTEL,

ON

MONDAY,

the 21st May, 1888,

ON

TUESDAY,

the 22nd May, 1888,

ON

WEDNESDAY,

the 23rd May, 1888.

Sale to commence each Day at 2 P.M. sharp.

THEIR WHOLE STOCK,

comprising—

A Most Valuable Collection of ANCIENT and MODERN JAPANESE CURIOS and WORKS of ART, including many very rare Specimens of OLD JAPANESE PORCELAIN, LACQUER, BRONZE, ARMOUR and ARMS, GENUINE SATSUMA, SATIN and SILK TABLEUX, SCREENS, EMBROIDERED LADIES and GENTS' GOWNS and JACKETS, QUILTS, BROCADES, CABINETS, and a great variety of ELEGANT and USEFUL ARTICLES. The Pair of Magnificent (all cut Bronze) CANDELABRA for 42 lights, and the TWO EXTRAORDINARY WOOD CARVED FIGURES (The wild-man of the woods and the Frog god) will also be offered at the Sale.

On view on FRIDAY the 18th and SATURDAY the 19th inst.

Catalogues will be issued previous to the sale.

G. R. LAMMERT, Auctioneer.

Hongkong, 19th May, 1888. [496]

PUBLIC AUCTION

OF

STEAM LAUNDRY MACHINERY.

THE Undersigned has received instructions to sell by Public Auction, on

MONDAY,

the 28th May, 1888, at 2.30 P.M., at the late

STEAM LAUNDRY WORKS,

Bowling Green.

(FOR ACCOUNT OF WHOM IT MAY CONCERN.)

1 PATENT MCALPINE WASHING MACHINE.

2 PATENT ROTARY STEAM WASHING MACHINE.

1 PATENT 108" DECONDUN IRONING MACHINE.

1 PATENT 54" DECONDUN IRONING MACHINE.

1 PATENT MANGLE.

1 STARCHING MACHINE.

1 SQUEEZING MACHINE.

1 BLUE RINSER and 2 IRONING STOVES.

1 CORNISH BOILER.



## Announcements.

A. S. WATSON &amp; CO., LTD.

HAVE JUST RECEIVED A FURTHER SUPPLY

of  
MONTSEKAT-LIME FRUIT JUICE,  
CORDIALS,

JUBUBES, and

TABLETS.

MAWSON &amp; SWAN'S

NEW PATENT WATER FILTERS.  
THE HONGKONG DISPENSARY,  
Established A.D. 1841.  
HONGKONG, 8th May, 1888.

## The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, SATURDAY, MAY 19, 1888.

LAW has not inaptly been compared to a sieve—it can very easily be seen through, but one can only succeed in getting through it with considerable difficulty and frequently at heavy expense. That at least has been the experience of Mr. T. L. LOY WILLIAMS, Editor and Proprietor of the *Bangkok Times*, in an action for libel brought against him by Mr. A. LAVAGNINO, which was recently tried in the British Consular Court for Siam. The cause of action was a paragraph in our contemporary alleging that a certain weighing machine, sent to the defendant LAVAGNINO by the Bangkok Customs officials to be repaired, had been illegally sold by him to a storekeeper for 45 *bahts*. There could not be the least doubt that the imputation intended to be conveyed was that LAVAGNINO had committed a criminal breach of trust by selling the property of the Siam Government, so that the position and responsibility of the Editor were clearly enough defined, when legal proceedings were initiated. LAVAGNINO claimed damages for loss in business and reputation to the extent of \$2000, and a defence was duly entered. Pleadings were filed, but as they have not been published we are unable to form any reliable idea as to their character. The Consular Court consisted of Mr. E. H. FRENCH, Acting Consul, assisted by Messrs. E. J. SMITH and M. R. WATSON as Assessors, plaintiff being represented by counsel, whilst defendant conducted his own case. Mr. WILLIAMS was singularly unhappy in his line of defence, and apparently entirely misconceived his legal position. He also made an unfortunate blunder in objecting to the Assessors on very frivolous grounds. But notwithstanding all this it appears to us that he has good reason for complaint at the treatment he received at the hands of the Court. The issue was a very simple one, and presented no real difficulties, legal or otherwise. A public newspaper had imputed in plain language that the plaintiff had misappropriated a weighing machine; *prima facie* a libel of the worst kind. Publication was admitted and therefore the only possible valid defence that could be urged was the truth of the libel. Could it have been shown that LAVAGNINO had, as alleged, been guilty of defrauding the Siam Government, a verdict for the defendant was inevitable; the matter was undoubtedly one of general interest, and moreover it has been clearly laid down that no damages are recoverable for a criminal act. Therefore had Mr. WILLIAMS succeeded in proving that the weighing machine was the property of the Japanese Customs and that plaintiff had actually sold the article under the circumstances stated, the decision of the Court must have been in his favor. All that was urged by defendant as to the assumed rights of newspapers, the absence of "express malice," his own "bona fides" in believing the truth of the paragraph, the application of the special provisions of Lord CAMPBELL'S Act, etc., had really nothing to do with the matter; and defendant's paradoxical proposition that "the case for the Court to decide was not whether the scale was really stolen property, but whether he, as a journalist, was justified in publishing what he did, and whether malice had been proved," was altogether untenable. The truth or falsehood of the libel was the only material point to be decided. Generally speaking, a newspaper has no more right than any member of the outside public to print a libellous statement that is false and unjustified; there are some special matters held to be what are termed privileged communications, some of which are absolutely privileged and others qualified by circumstances. But no absolute privilege can hedge in a newspaper editor who plainly writes down a person as a thief, although under certain conditions a libel of this nature might come under the head of qualified privilege. For instance, assuming that this weighing machine episode was a matter of material interest to the Bangkok community, and the allegation as to the theft was shown to be true, that

would be a case of qualified privilege and the Court would rule accordingly. Defendant was also at sea in his definition of malice. Malice in law and malice in fact are entirely different things, and it is the rule in law to presume malice in all libellous publications which are not specially justified. As OGDEN in his excellent "Digest of the Law of Libel and Slander" expresses it, malice in law merely denotes absence of legal excuse. The plaintiff is never called on to prove the existence of malice in law; the defendant has to show the existence of some legal excuse. Whether the charge made by the *Bangkok Times* against Mr. LAVAGNINO was true or false is very difficult to determine from the printed report of the evidence adduced at the trial; plaintiff swore that the weighing machine he sold was his own, and although he did not come unscathed through defendant's cross-examination, the evidence on the other side was anything but conclusive, and the result was that the Court found for the plaintiff, assessing damages at \$300, with costs.

We should not have considered it worth while to specially refer to this case, which involves no important principle and is of no particular public interest, had it not been for the unusual mode of procedure insisted on by the Judge of the Consular Court. After the pleadings were read the Judge called upon the defendant to bring forward evidence to prove the truth of his allegation against the plaintiff. Defendant very properly protested against opening the case, and contended that it was for the plaintiff, who was suing for damages, to prove that the paragraph was false and defamatory, and that he had by its publication sustained injury to the amount claimed. This objection was over-ruled by the Court, and although we are quite well aware that the Acting Consul had precedents for this ruling, it appears to us that the ordinary and fairer course of calling on the plaintiff to establish his claim should have been adopted in this case. In *Wick v. Fraser-Smith*, tried in Hongkong before Mr. Justice RUSSELL in September, 1881, Mr. HAYLAR, Q.C., for the plaintiff, contended that as publication had been admitted, and the only point to be inquired into was the truth of the alleged libel, that it was for the defendant to begin "the object of the learned counsel" of course, being to have the last word with the jury. Mr. FRANCIS, for the defendant, did not contest the point, and as a matter of fact the defendant's case was first opened. But in another suit of an almost similar character, *Bulgin v. Fraser-Smith*, tried before the same judge in June, 1883, the procedure was entirely changed. Mr. FRANCIS opening the case for the plaintiff, and we certainly think that this mode of procedure should have obtained in the Consular Court at Bangkok. But the Acting Consul in at once calling on the defendant to prove the truth of the alleged libel, showed plainly enough that as regards the legal merits of the case his mind had already been made up. And it was unfortunate that Mr. WILLIAMS failed to understand this pretty broad hint, as it was only by insufficient use of the evidence at his disposal as to the truth of the libel that he lost what was a most uncertain case for the plaintiff. We are also inclined to question the Acting Consul's refusal to file certain documentary evidence proffered by the defendant. Mr. WILLIAMS, we contend, had a perfect right to put in any letters or papers bearing on the suit. In the question of damages also, there would seem to be very little doubt that defendant was unfairly dealt with. LAVAGNINO, who is a working mechanic, claimed \$2000 and actually obtained \$300, although it is absolutely certain that the defamatory paragraph in the *Bangkok Times* never did him damage to a tenth part of the latter amount. He stated on oath that previous to the publication of the libel he made a monthly profit at his trade, after paying all expenses, of from 300 to 350 *bahts*, and that afterwards, in consequence of his having been defamed, his profits for the month only totalled 30 *bahts*. And yet in the face of an audacious statement like this, the Assessors considered that LAVAGNINO was entitled to \$300 and costs. The mercenary motives of the plaintiff should not have escaped the observation of the Assessors, and the fact that he never gave the Editor of the *Times* any opportunity of explaining or apologising, but at once rushed into court, ought to have had due weight in assessing damages. OGDEN says that in all cases before actually issuing a writ, plaintiff's solicitor should write to defendant, demanding an apology and threatening proceedings, and the fairness of this course, especially in newspaper libels, which are in many cases the result of an oversight, is clearly apparent. However, our colleague of the *Bangkok Times* had his baptism in the Law of Libel, and although it has been a somewhat expensive and unpleasant experience, we feel assured that the ultimate results will prove beneficial.

## TELEGRAMS.

(From Straits Times).

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LONDON, May 18th.

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The late Barghash Bin Saad, Sultan of Zanzibar, leaves twenty-seven widows and 232 children.

The third weekly shooting competition under the auspices of the Hongkong Rifle Association, set for this afternoon, had to be postponed until Monday at 4 p.m. owing to unfavorable weather.

SAYS the Foochow *Echo* of the 12th inst:—A few chops of country teas have arrived during the last few days, and the quality is said to be superior to that of last season. The tea men assert that this season crop will be shorter than last, and will not exceed 600,000 chests.

If Lord Salisbury may be believed, Great Britain, while using all possible influence to preserve the peace of Europe, has been most energetically preparing for war. We are bound to credit the Premier's public utterances—but what about the guns and long promised torpedo boats for the defence of Hongkong? They are coming! No doubt; but so is the millennium.

Two mariners "out of collar," to wit, James Kennedy and John Sullivan, made their salaam before Mr. Sercombe-Smith at the Magistracy this forenoon at the instance of Mr. Moir, the superintendent of the Sailors' Home, who accused them of having been loaded with fire-arms and very disorderly at the Home last night. James and John had to own to the soft impeachment, and his Worship informed them that they would each contribute one Mexican dollar to Lister's money box. They "amied up."

The following story of the Emperor of Brazil furnishes a good illustration of the character of that gifted monarch. The other day, at Cannes, the editor of a scientific French journal waited upon his Majesty with the request that he would contribute some articles on matters connected with his dominion. "Certainly," replied the Emperor; "but what rate of pay do you give?" The man of letters, though a little surprised, having named what he was in the habit of giving, Dom Pedro added, smiling: "Yes, that will do very well. You see, I would gladly write for nothing, but I am not at liberty to do so, as ever since I began writing I have given every penny I have earned by my brain to an orphan asylum in my capital."

The New York *Herald* reports General Boulanger as saying to a *Figaro* reporter, on being asked with what party he affiliated: "I am like this blade," throwing his knife on the table. "Why must I go to the right or the left? It was not I who first thought of the Presidency of the Republic. All my hopes centered in my friends to the Ministry. Now, it is true that my friends hold out to me the prospect of the first magistracy in the State. Will you call me 'ambitious' if I say I have not been able to avoid looking at the prospect? I have no liking for dragging my sword after me in time of peace. If we had war, every one knows I would take it up again. It is idiotic, though, to say 'Boulanger est en guerre.' Why should I think of war when neither France nor Germany wishes it? Prepare to wage it, says; declare it, never."THE *China Mail*—"supposes" that Chinese passengers willing to pay the poll-tax or provided with genuine certificates may leave this with the hope of gaining entrance to the Colonies." And yet during the past three weeks our contemporary has published telegrams to the effect that the whole of the Australian Colonies have combined to entirely exclude Chinese emigrants, and further, is quite well aware that the agents of the steamers running from here to Australia have received definite telegraphic instructions not to ship any more Chinese passengers. Within the past few days the E. & A. Co's steamer *Tanandee* and the China Navigation Co's *Ching-tu* have left for the Colonies without a single Chinese passenger on board. The man who edits the evening rag is certainly a phenomenon; his brains are evidently composed either of mud or sawdust—the former for choice.We call this interesting little legal romance from the Sydney *Bulletin*:—"There is heard in Queensland the sound of a deadbeat blaspheming by the shores of the solemn sea. He was a young Englishman with a pa, and when, a few months ago, he went to claim his halo, he received a long paragraph from a London firm of solicitors stating that a legacy of £7000



## RAILS.

OCCIDENTAL AND ORIENTAL STEAM  
SHIP COMPANY.

TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO  
 JAPAN, THE UNITED STATES,  
 MEXICO,  
 CENTRAL AND SOUTH AMERICA, AND  
 EUROPE:

VIA  
THE OVERLAND RAILWAYS,  
AND  
ATLANTIC AND OTHER CONNECTING  
STEAMERS.

**"GAELIC"**  
will be despatched for San Francisco, via  
Yokohama, on WEDNESDAY, the 30th May  
at THREE P.M.  
Connection will be made at Yokohama with  
Steamers from Shanghai and Japan Ports.

All PARCEL PACKAGES should be marked with address in full; and the same will be received at the Company's Office until FIVE P.M. the day previous to sailing.  
First-class Fares granted as follows:—

To San Francisco.....	\$200.00
To San Francisco and return, available for 6 months.....	350.00
To Liverpool.....	225.00

To Liverpool..... 331.00  
To London..... 330.00  
To other European Ports at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service and the Imperial Chinese Customs, to be obtained on application.  
Passengers, who have paid full fare, re-embark

ing, at San Francisco for China or Japan (or vice versa) within one year will be allowed a discount of 10 per cent. This allowance does

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Points beyond San Francisco, in the United States, should be sent to the Company Offices, addressed to the Collector of Customs, San Francisco.

For further information as to Freight & Passage, apply to the Agency of the Company No. 50A, Queen's Road Central.  
C. D. HARMAN,  
Agent.  
Hongkong, 10th May, 1888.

**CANADIAN PACIFIC LINE.**  
**TAKING CARGO AND PASSENGERS TO**  
**JAPAN, CANADA, THE UNITED**

JAPAN, CANADA, THE UNITED STATES AND EUROPE,  
VIA  
THE CANADIAN PACIFIC RAILWAY  
AND OTHER CONNECTING  
RAILWAY LINES & STEAMERS.

**T**H*E* British Steamship  
“PORT ADELAIDE,”  
Capt. T. J. R. ... .. West ... Command.

will be despatched for VANCOUVER, B.C., and SAN FRANCISCO, via KOBE, and YOKOHAMA, on FRIDAY, the 1st June at THREE P.M.  
To be followed by the S. S. "PARTHIA"

Connection will be made at Yokohama with Steamers from Shanghai and Japan Ports, and at Vancouver with Pacific Coast Ports by the

Through Passage Tickets granted to England, France, and Germany by all trans-Atlantic lines of Steamers.

First-class Fares granted as follows:—  
 To Vancouver and Victoria... (Mex.) \$160.00  
 To San Francisco..... 175.00  
 To all Common Points in Canada }  
 and the United States ..... } 200.00

To Liverpool ..... 300.00  
To London..... 305.00  
To other European Points at proportionate rates. Special reduced rates granted to Officers of the Army, Navy, Civil Service, and to Imperial Chinese and Japanese Customs; to

Consular Invoices to accompany Cargo destined to Points in the United States, should be sent to the Company's Offices, addressed Mr. D. E. BROWN, District Freight Agent.

Freight will be received on board until 4 P.  
on the 31st May.  
All Parcels must be sent to our Office and  
should be marked to address in full; and to

For information as to Passage or Freight apply to  
**ADAMSON, BELL & Co.,**

Hongkong, 15th May, 1888

**NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD.**

NOTICE  
STEAM FOR  
SINGAPORE, COLOMBO, ADEN, SUMATRA  
PORT SAID, BRINDISI, GENOA

ANTWERP, BREMEN & HAMBURG,  
PORTS IN THE LEVANT, BLACK  
SEA AND BALTIC PORTS;  
ALSO,  
LONDON, NEW YORK, BOSTON  
NEW ORLEANS

BALTIMORE, NEW ORLEANS,  
GALVESTON, AND SOUTH  
AMERICAN PORTS.

THE COMPANY'S STEAMERS WILL CALL  
SOUTHAMPTON TO LAND PASSENGERS

**AND LUGRAGE.**  
*N.B.—Cargo can be taken on through B  
of Lading for the principal places  
RUSSIA.*

ON WEDNESDAY, the 6th day of June 1888, at 4 P.M., the Company's Steamship "NECKAR," Captain H. Supper, with MAIL PASSENGERS, SPECIE and CARGO, will leave this Port as above. Calling at GENOA.

Shipping Orders will be granted till Noon. Cargo will be received on board until 4 p.m. Specie and Parcels until 3 p.m., on the June, 1888. (Parcels are not to be sent board; they must be left at the AGENT'S Office.)

Content and Value of Packages are required.  
The Steamer has splendid accommodation and  
carries a Doctor and Stewardess.  
For further Particulars, apply to  
**MELCHERS & Co.**

81. Hongkong, 14th May, 1953. Agents.